

OHMVR COMMISSION TOUR

November 16, 2013
Ocotillo Wells SVRA
Borrego Springs







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**Junior
Rangers
Today!**
Stop by the
Discovery Center
for program times!































Some Cool Customers

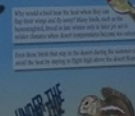
When it comes to the summer temperatures rising, these desert critters keep their cool.

VERY QUIET LIFE



Adapted and far from home, rabbits in the desert don't depend on the green grass and they can't dig deep holes like in the cool, rainy north. Instead, they dig shallow holes to stay cool and hide from the sun. They can also dig out their whole body.

TAKING FLIGHT



Who would expect the bird who lives in the desert to fly? Well, they do. They fly away when it's too hot to stay. They fly to the mountains and back to the desert when it's just right.

UNDER THE ROCK



Many small animals live in the desert. They hide under rocks and in the sand to stay cool.



Desert birds are very smart. They know when to fly and when to stay. They can fly to the mountains and back to the desert when it's just right.

The Secret Life of the Ocotillo

Reaching heights upwards of 20 feet, the ocotillo is often the tallest, most noticeable plant here. Still, even the highly visible ocotillo holds a few secrets.





[illegible]

Confined rising through the individualized mesquite base exposes the trunk directly, but also loosens the soil matrix, making it more vulnerable to the intense spring and fall winds, exposing more roots, until the plants are killed.

Circling the base of some bushes between the plants and even upon individual plants, denigrating the habitat for the various animals that take shelter and make their living in the mesophyll, like the round-tailed ground squirrel, the house wood rat, the black-tail

The focus was to protect amongst these habitat, which according to habitat monitoring data, cannot sustain continued riding activity. Because this habitat occupies such a small geographic portion of OWSWA, but holds the highest diversity of all habitats present, the focus effort is to protect the maximum diversity by removing the smallest area from riding opportunity. This habitat does not meet the standard of "sustainable for recreation", because of the frequency of effort and expense required to return it to a continued or restored state.











































